Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 175698

12
ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66630
DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS: EWGNEHM
APPROVED BY: NEA/INS: DKUX
NEA/PAB: DMCOCHRAN
---------- 005539
R 042200Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0000

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 175698

FOLLOWING REPEAT DACCA 3960 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ISLAMABAD KATHMANDU NEW DELHI LONDON CALCUTTA SEP 3:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, PK
SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO INDO-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT

1. SUMMARY: BENGALEES PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY HAVE GREETED THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE INDO-PAK TALKS WITH A MIXTURE OF SATISFACTION AND RELIEF. IN THE AGREEMENT MUJIB SAVED ENOUGH OF HIS PRINCIPLES TO STAVE OFF LOCAL CRITICS. CARRYING OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE ACCORD WILL PROVE MOST DIFFICULT FOR BDG AND DELAYS AND MISUNDERSTANDING SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED. WITH WAR CRIMES TRIALS GRADUALLY DECLINING IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AND WITH MANY BENGALEES HOPING TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH PAKISTAN, PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS ARE REASONABLY GOOD. END SUMMARY.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 175698

2. THE PRESS, OFFICIALS, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS HAVE GREETED THE NEW DELHI AGREEMENT WITH A MIXTURE OF SATISFACTION AND RELIEF. THE BENGALI AND ENGLISH PRESS, EVEN THOSE PAPERS NORMALLY CRITICAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICY,

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

HAVE EXPRESSED ALMOST UNIFORM PRAISE OF BDG FLEXIBILITY
IN ITS ENTIRETY TO MEAN PAKISTAN HAS EFFECTIVELY ACCORDED
RECOGNITION. OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS, INCLUDING
STATEMENTS BY MUJIB AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HAVE BEEN
LIMITED TO GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE. THERE HAS
BEEN NO COMMENT ON THE DETAILS OF ACCORD, ITS IMPLEMENTATION,
OR PLANS FOR FURTHER SUBCONTINENT NEGOTIATIONS.

3. OPINIONS EXPRESSED PRIVATELY BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
AND INFLUENTIAL PRIVATE CITIZENS ARE MORE SUBSTANTIVE.
THE ACCORD IS REGARDED AS A POSITIVE STEP, AND SO GENERAL
IS SATISFACTION THAT OPPOSITION PARTIES, DISSIDENT AWAMI
LEAGUE POLITICIANS, AND OTHERS WILL FIND LITTLE SYMPATHY
FOR THEIR ATTACKS. THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY (JSD)
AND THE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (BHASHANI) HAVE PUBLICLY
EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS. THE SHEIKH CAN DEFEND HIMSELF
AGAINST MOST COMERS. TO THOSE WHO WANTED A TOUGH LINE
HE CAN SHOW HE HAS NOT YIELDED PRINCIPLE. MUJIB WILL
ARGUE AS HE DID ON AUGUST 29 THAT HE HAS REDEEMED HIS
PLEDGE TO BRING BACK BENGALEES FROM PAKISTAN WITHOUT
GIVING UP RIGHT TO CONDUCT TRIALS FOR"GENOCIDE AND WAR
CRIMES". MUJIB ALSO MAY CONVINCINGLY MAINTAIN THAT HE
HAS DEFENDED THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY. TO
THOSE WHO WANT FLEXIBILITY THE AGREEMENT SPEAKS FOR
ITSELF. THE PROMISE OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN,
AND CHINA POSSIBLE AND THE REPATRIATION OF BENGALEES
LARGELY ACCOUNT FOR PUBLIC SATISFACTION. AGAINST
THE BACKGROUND OF RISING ANTI-INDIAN FEELING IN BANGLADESH,
MANY BENGALEES IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT GENUINELY LOOK
FORWARD TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN FOR THE COUNTER-
WEIGHT, PAKISTAN COULD BRING TO BANGLADESH'S RELATIONS
WITH INDIA AS WELL AS FOR THE MATERIAL ADVANTAGES OF
RESUMED TRADE. WITH REPRIATION FAMILIES WILL BE REUNITED
AND BADLY NEEDED CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL
WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BDG. THESE BLESSINGS ARE MIXED.
MANY BENGALEES ARE ALREADY WONDERING HOW SUCH A LARGE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NUMBER OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN CAN BE ABSORBED AND AT WHAT
COST TO THOSE THERE. EVEN THOUGH MOST RETURNEES HAVE BEEN
INTEGRATED WE HAVE REPORTS OF CIVIL SERVANTS WITH
TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE BLOCKING
APPOINTMENTS OF SEVERAL OF THE MORE COMPETENT OFFICIALS
WHO ESCAPED FROM PAKISTAN. WITH THOUSANDS MORE RETURNING,
THE PROBLEM OF INTEGRATION WILL INTENSIFY. FURTHERMORE,
MUJIB WHO INSTINCTIVELY FEARS AN INDEPENDENT
MILITARY MAY NOT BE AT ALL HAPPY WITH THE RETURN OF
COMPETENT OFFICERS AND THE INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF HIS
REGULAR ARMED FORCES.

4. WHERE THERE IS CRITICISM OF THE AGREEMENT, IT IS NOT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

RELATED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF INDO-PAK ACCORD. SOME
BENGALEES DESCRIBE IT AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF INDIAN
MANIPULATION OF BENGALEE AFFAIRS. OTHERS CRITICIZE
THE SHEIKH FOR HAVING TAKEN SO LONG TO NEGOTIATE A
SETTLEMENT AND FOR HAVING TARNISHED IN THE PROCESS
BANGLADESH'S REPUTATION AS THE AGGRIEVED PARTY. A FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIAL CLAIMING TO REFLECT THE FEELING OF
HIS COLLEAGUES, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER AUGUST 30 HE TOOK
HIS HAT OFF TO BHUTTO'S SKILL IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND
REGRETTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INEPTITUDE.

5. KEY TO PUBLIC REACTION IS THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS TRIALS.
OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS WE HAVE FOUND BENGALEES IN
DACCA AND OUTSIDE INCREASINGLY FLEXIBLE ON THIS SUBJECT.
THEY ARGUE THAT TIME IS HEALING WOUNDS, THAT THE NEED FOR
AN UNDERSTANDING WITH PAKISTAN OUTWEIGHS THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE TRIALS, AND THAT DOMESTIC ISSUES LIKE LAW AND ORDER
RISING PRICES, CONSUMER GOODS SHORTAGES, AND GOVERNMENT
INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION ARE ECLIPSING THE ISSUE OF
RETRIBUTION. THEY BELIEVE THAT SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE AGREEMENT, THE CONSIDERABLE TIME NEEDED TO CONDUCT
PLANNED EXCHANGES, AND THE PROBLEMS BANGLADESH WILL FACE
IN ASSIMILATING SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND REPATRIATES
WILL FURTHER OBSCURE THE QUESTION OF TRIALS. AN
INFLUENTIAL LAWYER CLOSE TO SHEIKH MUJIB WENT EVEN
FURTHER AUGUST 30 IN TELLING EMBASSY OFFICERS HE HAD
REASON TO BELIEVE MUJIB NEVER WANTED TRIALS BUT RAISED
THE BANNER ON INDIAN AND POPULAR INSISTENCE. THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LAWYER ASKED MUJIB SOME MONTHS AGO WHY HE DID NOT ACCEPT
BHUTTO'S OFFER TO RETAIN 5,000 POWS AND RELEASE THE REST.
MUJIB REPLIED: WHICHEVER PRISONER HE ACCEPTED, SOME
AGGRIEVED BENGALEE WOULD RECALL A PAK OFFENDER NOT
DETAINED. TIME, MUJIB SAID, WOULD BLUR MEMORIES AND DULL
BITTERNESS. WHILE THIS ACCOUNT OF MUJIB'S PRIVATE
THOUGHTS MAY WELL BE TRUE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE MUJIB
IS YET IN A POSITION TO FORMALLY RENOUNCE TRIALS AND
PROBABLY WON'T BE FOR MANY MONTHS. HE HAS MADE TOO MUCH
OF THE SUBJECT TO LET IT DROP QUICKLY.

6. IMPLEMENTING THE NEW DELHI AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE EASY
AND THERE MAY BE SURPRISES AHEAD. THE PRINCIPLE OF
SIMULTANEITY PRESENTS OBVIOUS PROBLEMS. FACED WITH
PROBLEMS TO SOLVE, BENGALEES HAVE SHOWN A HABIT TO
TEMPORIZE AND SPIN OUT DECISIONS. AS A RESULT
SIMULTANEITY AS FORESEEN IN THE NEW DELHI ACCORD OR AT
LEAST THE FINE TUNING SIMULTANEITY IMPLIES WILL PROVE
A DIFFICULT CONCEPT TO CARRY OUT. BDG'S CAPACITY TO
TRANSPORT, RECEIVE, AND ABSORB LARGE NUMBERS OF
REPATRIATES IS LIMITED. IN ADDITION TO ARRANGING

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

INTERNATIONAL PASSAGE, BANGLADESH WILL HAVE TROUBLE
FURTHER TASKING ITS ALREADY HEAVILY OVERLOADED
INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS. THE BANGLADESH RED CROSS
IS SMALL, FULLY EMPLOYED AND NOT EFFICIENT; THE
CONCERNED GOVERNMENT OFFICES SUFFER FROM SIMILAR
HANDICAPS. FINDING HOUSING, PLACES IN THE EDUCATION
SYSTEM, AND JOBS PRESENTS FURTHER IMPORTANT PROBLEMS.
IN SHORT SIX TO NINE MONTHS MAY PROVE A CONSERVATIVE
ESTIMATE OF THE TIME REQUIRED.

7. IF REPATRIATION FROM PAKISTAN WILL RAISE PROBLEMS,
SELECTION AND DISPATCH OF BIHARIS AND OTHER NON-LOCALS
FROM BANGLADESH IS NOT WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS. MANY
NON-LOCALS WISH TO LEAVE THEIR SQUALID CAMPS AND DETENTION
CENTERS BUT EXACTLY WHO WILL GO IS NOT CLEAR. AN
EMBASSY OFFICER WHO RECENTLY TOURED A NON-LOCAL INTERNMENT
AREA LEARNED THAT AMONG THOSE BDG WOULD MOST LIKE
TO UNLOAD, -- THE POORER AND ILLITERATE BIHARIS -- MANY
PREFER THE DEVIL THEY KNOW FOR ONE THEY DON'T.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

8. WHILE TOUGH A
<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE175698
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/INS: EWGNEHM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730963/abqceimf.tel
Line Count: 187
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO INDO-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, PK
To: n/a INFO COLOMBO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005